REMARKS

Summary of Status of Claims

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 37-45, 47-54 and 56-66 were currently pending in the present application with Claims 37, 65 and 66 being independent claims and Claims 38-45, 47-54 and 56-64 being dependent claims. Claims 37, 42-44, 51-52 and 60-66 have been amended without adding new matter. New Claims 67 and 68 have been added without adding new mater. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 37-45, 47-54 and 56-68 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 37-45, 47-54 and 56-66 and consideration of Claims 67 and 68 view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 37-45, 47-54, and 56-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,362) (hereinafter, "Kato et al."), Fujita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,024) (hereinafter, "Fujita et al."), and further in view of Bossut et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,265,763) (hereinafter, "Bossut et al.").

No other issues were raised.

Interview With Examiner

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time in conducting a telephonic interview with Applicants' representative, Marlene Klein, on April 28, 2010. The claims have been amended as per the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants request that should there be any outstanding issues following the Examiner's review of this response that the Examiner contact Applicant's representative Marlene Klein to resolve any such issues rather than send out a communication so that any such issues can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Description of the Invention of the Present Application

The present invention generates a visual effect, such as a zoom effect or a pan effect, by determining trimming areas for a first and second (last) image and calculating trimming areas for continuous images between the first and the second image based on trimming areas specified for the first image and the second image and generating images based on the trimming areas.

The present invention is explained in detail below in conjunction with an example submitted herewith.

A moving image file which is made up of a plurality of still images is stored on a medium. In the example submitted herewith, a moving image of a golfer swinging a golf club is composed of 45 still images. The first three pages illustrate the original 45 images stored on the recording medium.

The fourth – sixth pages illustrate the calculations performed by the present invention as described further below. Page 4 illustrates the first image. In the example shown, the first image also happens to be the first of the 45 images. Page 6 illustrates the second (last) image. In this example, the second image happens to be the last image. It will be appreciated that all of the images do not have to be used. For example, the first image could actually be the tenth image of the 45 images and the second (last) image could be the 35th of the 45 images.

In the example shown, the trimming area determined for the first image is the entire image and the trimming area determined for the second image is such that the second image is that of the golfer's head/face. In other words, nothing will be trimmed from the first image and everything but the golfer's head/face will be trimmed from the second (last) image.

Trimming areas are calculated for each of the images between the first image (full image) and the second image (zoom in of head/face). For example, as shown on Page 4, in the first and second columns, the first image after the first (full) image has a small amount trimmed from each of the sides, in the next image, a little more is trimmed from each of the edges, and so on.

The last three pages in the example submitted herewith show the images that are generated by trimming the trimming areas. In the example submitted herewith, the images generated create a visual effect of zooming.

The generated images (shown on Pages 7-9) could then be successively displayed to create a slide show illustrating the zooming effect or printed to create a flip book as described in the specification.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 37-45, 47-54, and 56-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. Fujita et al., and further in view of Bossut et al.

Applicants note that the Bossut et al. reference is not prior art as to the present application. The Bossut et al. reference (7,265,763) cited in the Office Action was filed on August 31, 2006. The present application was filed on September 25, 2003 (nearly three years before the cited reference). However, in the interest of expediting prosecution for this case, Applicants will address the rejections based on the Bossut et al. reference with respect to U.S. 6,195,101 (of which the 7,265,763 is a continuation of a continuation of a continuation).

Brief Description of the Kato et al. Reference

The Kato et al. reference teaches generating an image to be cutout that has been approved by a director. It does not teach or suggest a feature to make a change in an area to be cut out in comparison to the trimming area determined by a director when determining the area to be cut out. Instead, the Kato et al. reference discloses a feature that even if the trimming area determined by the director is squeezed, the trimming area in the squeezed image will be positioned in relatively same area as an area where the trimming area of the original size was positioned. With this feature of the Kato et al. reference, image of the trimming area determined on a film and an image cut out from the squeezed image will be identical.

Brief Description of the Fujita et al. Reference

The Fujita et al. reference discloses a method for detecting change points of video images. In this method, the change points of "a video cut" which is a group of continuous frames are detected based on a feature of the frames of video image displayed on a screen. As shown in the diagram of Fig. 1, the Fujita et al. reference discloses that when a user sets a mark on a frame 201, a frame 205 which is the first change point when video images are searched backward and a frame 207 which is the first change point when the video images are searched forward are detected, and the group of continuous frames included in "a continuous video image section" between the frame 205 and the frame 207 is regarded as one "video cut" 208.

Brief Description of the Bossut et al. Reference

The Bossut et al. reference discloses a method for enabling a user to import a user-defined graphic into a template. As shown in Fig. 4 and described in Col. 10, line 45 – Col. 11, line 34 of the Bossut et al. reference, one image can be substituted into any one of a plurality of templates. Fig. 4 illustrates an image 410 on the right and a plurality of cutouts 420, 430, 440 and 450 to the left of the image 410. Cutouts 420, 430, 440 and 450 belong to four different templates. The cutouts have varying shapes, e.g., square, elongated. The designer wants to use one of the templates 420, 430, 440 and 450 without changing the aspect ratio so that the cutout of the selected template is completely filled so that the part of the drawing showing in the selected template is aesthetically pleasing. A zone of interested (box) is illustrated on the image 410 as an indication for displaying in the cutout of the template.

The Claims Are Not Rendered Obvious By the Cited and Applied References

As acknowledged in the Office Action, the Kato et al. and Fujita et al. references do not teach or suggest "wherein positions and/or sizes of the trimming areas of each image of which order is between the first image and the

second image is different from position and/or sizes of the trimming areas of the first image and the second image determined by the trimming area determination unit, the trimming area of each image of which order is between the first image and the second image being a part of an entire area in which each image is recorded." The Office Action alleges that the Bossut et al. reference teaches these features.

As described above and discussed with the Examiner on April 28, 2010 the Bossut et al. reference also does not teach or suggest that which is lacking in the Kato et al. and Fujita et al. references. The Bossut et al. references teaches selecting one template to be used for a single image. It nowhere teaches or remotely suggests anything to do with "a trimming area calculation unit adapted to calculate a trimming area based on positions and/or sizes of the trimming areas of the first image and the second image determined by the trimming area determination unit, with respect to each image of which its order is between the first image and the second image among the continuous still images, wherein a position and/or a size of the trimming area of each image of which its order is between the first image and the second image are different from the positions and/or sizes of the trimming areas of the first image and the second image determined by the trimming area determination unit, the trimming area of each image of which its order is between the first image and the second image being a part of an entire area in which each image is recorded" as in Claim 37.

The Kato et al. reference, the Fujita et al., the Bossut et al. reference, or any combination of thereof do not teach or suggest all of the features of Claim 37 nor could any combination of them generate a visual effect as in Claim 37. Claim 37 is not rendered obvious by the cited and applied references. Accordingly, the rejections of Claim 37 should be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 65 and 66 include similar features to Claim 37 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 37. Accordingly, Claims 65 and 66 are believed allowable and Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 65 and 66.

The remaining claims (i.e., Claims 38-45, 47-54 and 56-64 and new Claims 67-68) are dependent claims. As discussed above, all of the independent claims are believed allowable. Therefore, the dependent claims are also believed allowable because they depend from an allowable base claim. Furthermore, each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

As described above, the cited references, taken either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of any of the claims in the present application. All of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowabilty at his earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

June 8, 2010

Date

/Marlene Klein/

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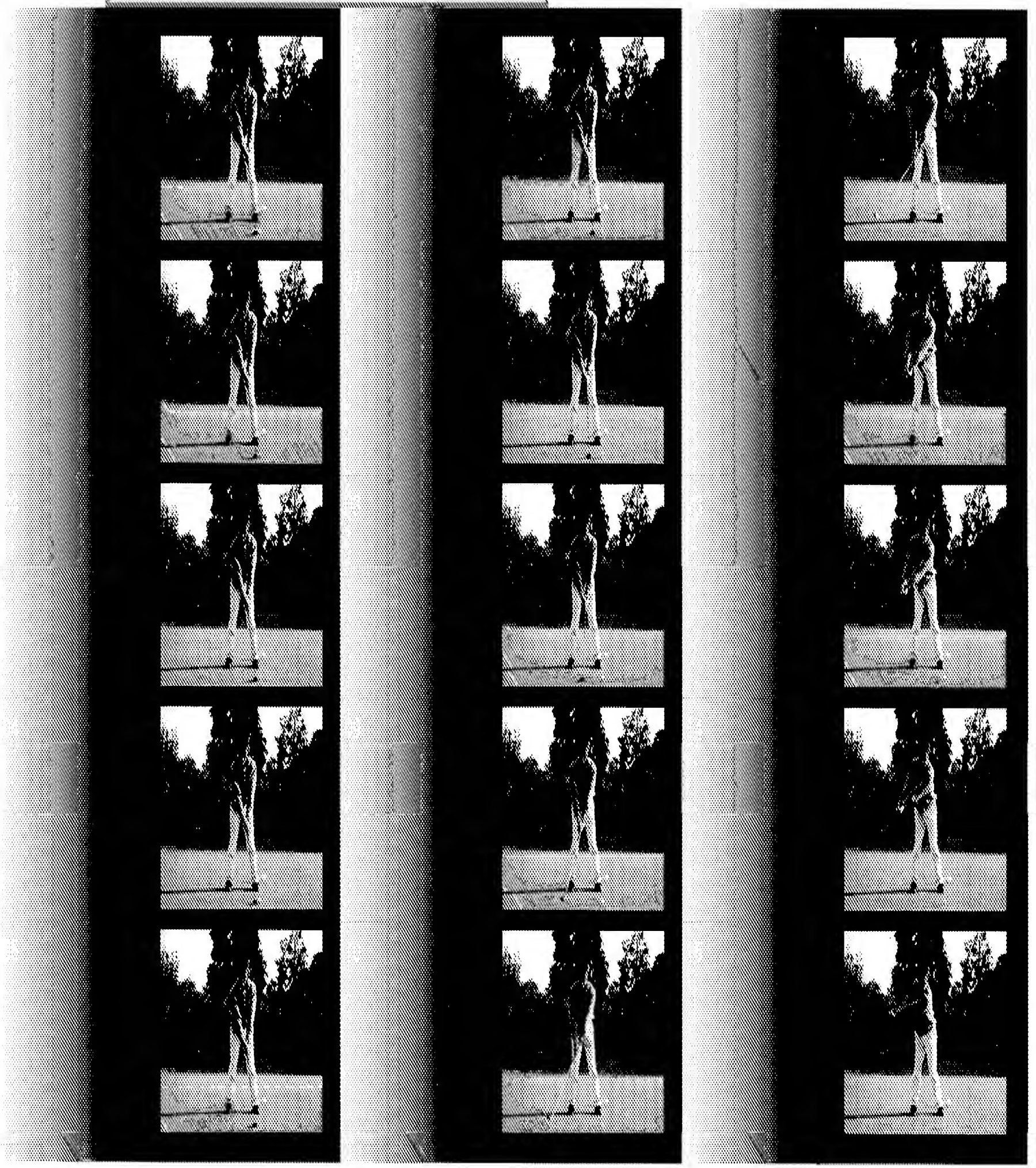
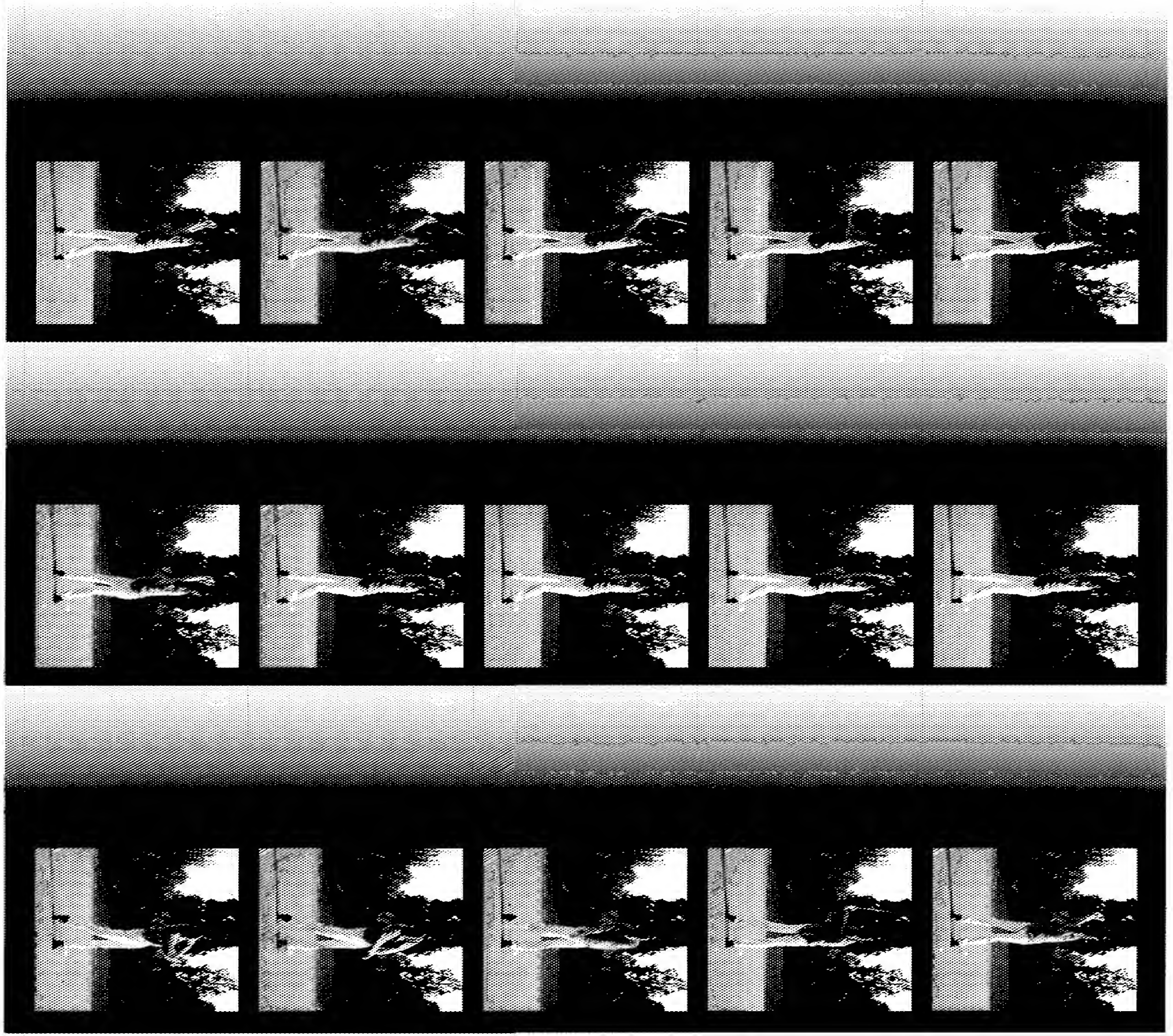
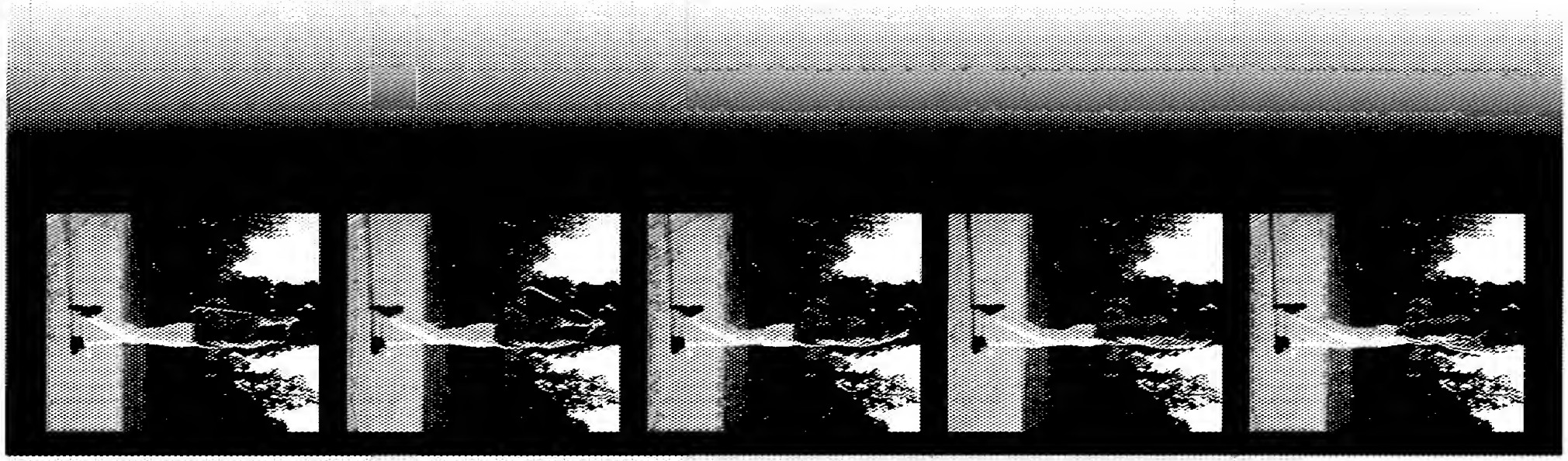
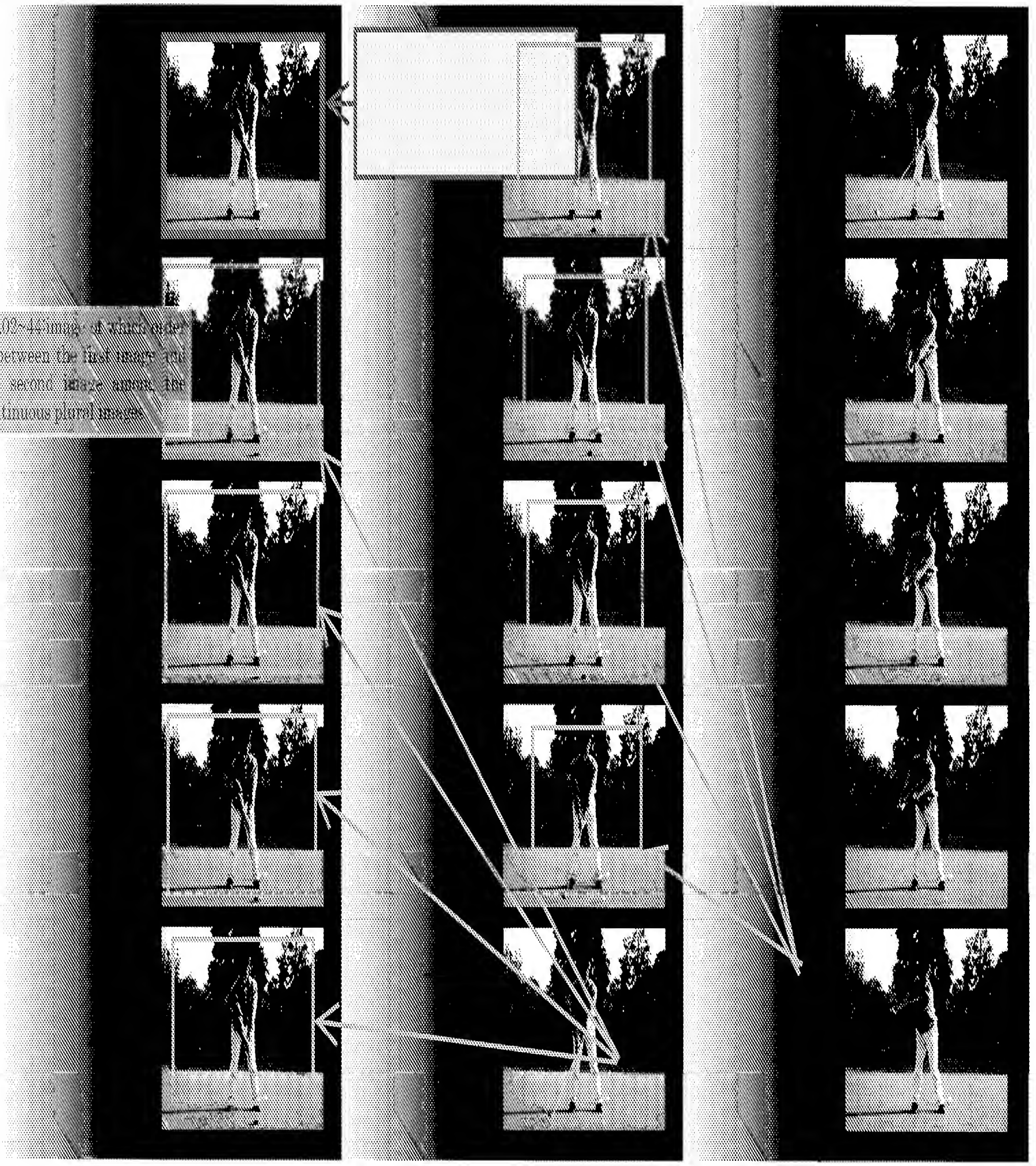
(1) continuous plural images(1-45) which were output without using the present invention







(2) Explanation of the process performed by the trimming area determination unit, the trimming area calculation unit and the generation unit of the present invention to the continuous plural images (1-45) of sample (1)



No.02~44 image, of which order is between the first image and the second image among the continuous plural images